



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE DISMANTLES FRAUD DOCUMENT OPERATION

MINNEAPOLIS—As a result of an investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents, two illegal aliens living in South St. Paul were criminally charged Tuesday in U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota for fraudulent document trafficking.

ICE agents arrested Roman Martinez-Sanchez and Santiago Martinez-Ruiz, both citizens of Mexico, on Friday after a five-month investigation into their activities.

“Fraudulent documents enable people to establish false identities,” said Mark Cangemi, Special Agent-in-Charge of the ICE office in Bloomington, Minn. “With new identities, criminals and terrorists might ultimately be able to gain access to protected areas and critical infrastructure, like power and water plants, airports, and military bases. ICE considers combating fraudulent documents to be a national security priority.” Cangemi oversees the enforcement of immigration and customs laws in a five-state area that includes Minnesota.

In December, Martinez-Sanchez met with a man he believed to be an illegal alien wanting to purchase fraudulent documents in a parking lot in Inver Grove Heights, according to court documents. In reality, the “customer” was an ICE confidential source.

The source provided Martinez-Sanchez with a set of photographs and biographical information, and about an hour later Martinez-Sanchez returned with a fraudulent Resident Alien Card (commonly known as a “green card”) and a fraudulent Social Security Card. The confidential source paid \$140 for the documents.

On Friday, ICE special agents and a confidential source set up a similar transaction to purchase three sets of fraudulent documents. Upon the completion of the transaction, ICE agents arrested Martinez-Sanchez and a short time later arrested Martinez-Ruiz, who is believed to be an accomplice.

ICE special agents then searched an apartment at the housing complex at 364 Marie Avenue in South St. Paul, where they seized fraudulent identification documents, computers, scanners, printers and laminators that Martinez-Sanchez and Martinez-Ruiz allegedly used to make the documents.

Friday's arrests are part of ICE's ongoing commitment to crack down on those who profit by producing and selling fraudulent documents. In October, ICE special agents arrested three illegal aliens in Minneapolis for fraudulent document trafficking. All three were criminally prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota and subsequently plead guilty. They are currently awaiting sentencing.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.